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Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" If so, when and how much, Sir ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is a separate question."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether Government have issued any instructions to local bodies to give preference so as to see that wells for depressed classes should be provided since they suffer very much ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" They were requested to consider the claims of the depressed classes."

Mr. R VEERIAN :—" May I know whether Government are aware that local bodies are asking for half the amount of contribution for sinking wells from the depressed classes in the locality in which the well is wanted ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The general condition laid down was that, whenever a grant is made to local bodies, the local bodies concerned should make a contribution of 50 per cent of the grant. That was the case in regard to this grant of Rs. 12½ lakhs for water-supply."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I am only asking the hon. Minister why the local boards are demanding half the amount for sinking wells for the depressed classes if they wanted wells in any locality. Is it not the duty of the local boards to sink wells for them whether they contribute or not ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The local bodies have to pay an equal amount, and it is left to local bodies to finance water-supply either themselves or to get a portion from others."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" In that case, no wells can be sunk for the use of the depressed classes. May I know whether the Government will sympathetically consider the matter and issue instructions not to take any contributions from the depressed classes since they have no funds at all ? "

Religious and Charitable Endowments.

Communal representation in the appointment of Commissioners to the Religious Endowments Board.

2373 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether communal representation is observed in the appointment of Commissioners to the Religious Endowments Board ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to his question No. 2024.

Roads and Communications.

Toll-gates on Alur-Guntakal road.

* 2374 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the total length of the Alur Goods Shed road and the Kasapuram road, Anantapur district, respectively, on each of which a ' Main ' toll-gate is said to be established ;

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(b) whether the toll-gate on the Alur Goods Shed road is situated on the road within the local fund limits or on property belonging to the railway authorities;

(c) if the toll-gate is situated on the railway land, the authority under which the toll-gate is established on private land and tolls are levied there; and

(d) if the two gates are gates independent of each other and situated on entirely different roads, why, in the latest sale notification published in the supplement to the *Anantapur Gazette*, dated 5th February 1925, they are described as situated at 0·2 and 0·5 furlongs of Alur-Guntakal road?

A.—(a) The length of the Alur Goods Shed road is 5 furlongs and that of the Kasapuram road, 3 miles.

(b) & (c) There is no toll-gate on the Alur Goods Shed road, but there is one at the fifth furlong of the Alur-Guntakal Feeder road where a vanka crosses it. The road up to this crossing belongs to the local board and beyond it to the railway company. The Government understand that the toll-gate was first fixed near the vanka on the local fund side of the road but that in July 1924 for convenience' sake it was removed to the railway side of the vanka under a misapprehension that that side also belonged to the local board. The toll-gate was again moved to a local board road in April 1926.

(d) The president states that in the notification referred to the sites of the toll-gates were wrongly described and that the mistake was rectified at the time of the sale. One gate is on the Alur-Guntakal Feeder road and the other on the Kasapuram road.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" With reference to the answer to clause (a) that the Alur Good Shed road is only 5 furlongs, may I know whether Government are satisfied as to the location of a main toll-gate in that road?"

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" The location of the toll-gate is left to the discretion of the local board."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Is not the notification of the president to be submitted to the Government?"

Trunk roads in Malabar and South Kanara.

* 2375 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to place before the House a statement showing the number of trunk roads from each of the districts of Malabar and South Kanara to over the Western Ghats with their respective mileage till the frontier of each district, how they are classified and the amount spent in the last two years on each road on the average per mile?

A.—The appended statement [a] shows the trunk roads passing over the Western Ghats in the Malabar and South Kanara districts, by whom they are maintained, their mileages and the average cost of maintenance per mile of road. In addition to these trunk

[a] Printed as Appendix V on page 299 infra.